

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 515
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: MASS, UK, IR
SUBJ: IRAN-UK DEFENSE CONTRACTS

REF: LONDON 19896, LONDON 20029

1. WE HAVE CONFIRMED ACCURACY OF GENERAL LINE OF FINANCIAL TIMES DEC 9 STORY WITH UK EMBASSY (AMBASSADOR AND HEAD OF CHANCERY ALSTON), ALTHOUGH BOTH SUGGESTED ARTICLE CONTAINED SOME "LICENSE." AMB PARSON ASKED BARTER WILL NOT BE INVOLVED IN POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL SCORPION TANK PURCHASE OR FOR CHAH BAHAR PROJECT. PARSON NOTED THAT, "BUILDING A ROAD IN IRAN IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR OIL BARTER."

2. ACCORDING TO PARSONS NEW HEAD OF UKMOD OVERSEAS SALES ELLIS IS IN IRAN "NOT TO NEGOTIATE, BUT FOR FIELD ORIENTATION AFTER ASSUMING NEW POSITION IN SEPTEMBER." ALSTON ALSO MADE THAT POINT, BUT ADDED THAT THREE OF FOUR ITEMS MENTIONED IN FINANCIAL TIMES ARTICLE (NOT CHAH BAHAR) WOULD CERTAINLY COME UP IN ELLIS DISCUSSIONS "ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT CLOSE TO AGREEMENT."

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3. PARSONS SAID HE WAS NOT CERTAIN BUT HE HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT GEN TOUFANIAN IS GIVEN FIXED ANNUAL BUDGET FOR PROCUREMENT; IF HE WANTS TO GO OVER THAT FIGURE SHAH HAS GIVEN HIM AUTHORITY TO SEEK OIL BARTER ARRANGEMENT TO GET WHAT WOULD BE -- IN ESSENCE -- A SUPPLEMENTAL.

4. WITH RESPECT TO ISFAHAN ORDNANCE FACTORY, TOUFANIAN HAS

TOLD US THAT IRAN HAD COME TO CNCLUSION THAT IT DID NOT
MAKE SENSE TO PAY LARGE SUM FOR UK TECHNICIANS WHEN GOI HAD
PERSONNEL OF EQUAL CAPABILITY AVAILABLE.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 20 DEC 1976
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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